

# *Documents on Diplomacy: Resources*

## *Section XI: The Later Cold War* *Diplomatic Terms & Historical Events*

### *Diplomatic & Other Terms*

***Ambassador*** The official representative from one country to another. An Ambassador is the highest ranking official assigned to live in a foreign country for an extended period of time. In the United States, an Ambassador is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The title of Ambassador was first used in the United States in 1893. Prior to that, the highest ranking American diplomats were Ministers Plenipotentiary.

***Arbitration*** The formal process of dispute settlement by referring the matter to mediator agreed to by the disagreeing parties.

***Attaché*** A recognized, but not uniform, title for members of a diplomatic mission. They may be either junior members of the diplomatic corps or specialist staff from outside of the traditional diplomatic establishment who often report to their home agencies.

***Asylum:*** Protection given to a person who has left their home country, usually for political reasons, but not for criminal offenses.

***Belligerent States*** Nations which are in a recognized state of war.

***Blockade*** An official action designed to prevent people or goods from moving from one place to another. A war measure that isolates some area of importance to the enemy.

***Chargé d'Affaires*** The member of a diplomatic mission who takes charge of an embassy or legation during the temporary absence of its head. The chargé may also be the diplomat who acts as

head of a country's lowest-level diplomatic mission that is neither an embassy nor a legation.

***Charter*** The formal statement of an organized group that serves as its constitution or governing document.

***Commission*** A group of representatives or diplomats who are given authority to accomplish a specific task.

***Consul*** An official appointed by a government to protect its commercial interests and help its citizens in a foreign city.

***Diplomacy*** The term is used to describe the practice of conducting relations with other nations, such as negotiating treaties, alliances, or agreements.

***Diplomat*** An individual who is appointed by a government to represent its interests and to conduct its relations with another government. An Ambassador is the highest ranking U.S. Department of State diplomatic representative to another nation.

***Diplomatic Corps*** Those engaged in on-going or specific official diplomatic efforts. Included are the Secretary of State, ambassadors, and special envoys to other nations and their staff members who support the work of diplomacy.

***Diplomatic Mission*** An individual or group sent by a government to conduct negotiations or establish relations with another country. A diplomatic mission can be temporary or permanent.

***Dispatches*** Official messages sent with speed between a government and its overseas diplomats or between nations.

**Embargo** An official ban by a government preventing trade with another country. An order of a state forbidding ships to enter or leave its ports.

**Embassy** The official headquarters of a government's Ambassador and other representatives to another country. It is usually located in the capitol of the other country. An Embassy is the highest level of diplomatic representation.

**Envoy** An agent sent by a government or ruler to transact diplomatic business.

**Foreign Policy** The official views and policies of a government regarding its relations with other nations. In the United States, foreign policy is developed by the President, with the advice of the Secretary of State and others, and is implemented by the Department of State and any other officials designated by the President.

**Legation** A diplomatic mission headed by a Minister whose title was "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary." A legation is the second level of diplomatic representation and is less important than an embassy.

**Mandate:** A policy especially prominent after World War I of governing territory freed from the control of a defeated state. The victors saw themselves as advanced states who would control territories for an indefinite time until they could "better" govern themselves.

**Minister Plenipotentiary** A diplomat with the authority to represent a head of state but of a lower status than an Ambassador. Until 1893, diplomats who headed American missions overseas only carried the title of Minister Plenipotentiary. The complete title is "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary."

**Negotiate** The term refers to discussions between individuals, groups, or nations that are conducted for the purpose of arriving at an agreement on a particular set of terms or actions.

**Neutrality** A legal status assumed unilaterally by a state during a time of war, indicating its intention to stay out of the war.

**Nonintervention:** The doctrine that intervention in the affairs of other nations is improper.

**Protocol** The system of rules and acceptable behavior used at official ceremonies and occasions. This may also refer to an official international agreement.

**Ratify** A state's formal act of consent to be bound by a treaty which it has already signed. In the United States, the Senate ratifies treaties negotiated by the Executive Branch.

**Rebellion** An attempt to remove a government or a leader by force.

**Refugee** A person who leaves his or her country to find safety, especially during war or for political or religious reasons.

**Revolt** An attempt to remove the government of a country by its some of its citizens, using force.

**Sovereignty** The authority of a state to govern itself.

**Statesman** An experienced politician, who is respected for making good decisions.

**Treaty** A formal agreement between two or more countries or states, as in reference to terms of peace or trade and any limitations associated within the agreement.

**Trusteeship** The idea that a territory should be administered for another state for an indefinite period of time until it is better able to govern itself.

*Important Places, Concepts, and Events*

**Alliance for Progress:** A program initiated by President John Kennedy in 1961 to establish economic cooperation and improve relations between the United States and the nations of Latin America.

**Apollo 11:** The designation of the first American mission to land a man on the moon and safely return to Earth in July 1969.

**Apollo Program:** A series of space missions with the goal of landing a man on the moon and exploring it. The last Apollo mission landed astronauts on the moon in December 1972.

**Autocracy:** Government by a single person or small group with unlimited power.

**Baltic Countries:** Generally used to refer to Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. Sometimes, Finland is included.

**Bay of Pigs:** A location in Cuba which was the site of an unsuccessful attempt to land Cuban refugees with the assistance of the CIA on that island to topple Fidel Castro's government.

**Berlin Airlift:** The Western response to the Soviet Union's 1948 attempt to isolate the Allied sectors of Berlin from the West. This massive airlift kept the city supplied with food and all other necessities from almost a year before the blockade was lifted. This was a massive embarrassment for the Soviet Union.

**Berlin Wall:** A barrier begun by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in August 1961 to isolate West Berlin from East Berlin and East Germany. The wall was built to prevent mass emigration from East Berlin. It remained in place until 1989.

**Brandenburg Gate:** A major landmark in the city of Berlin. Citizens could pass freely through the gate until the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. It remained closed until 1989. President Reagan delivered a speech here in 1982 urging Soviet President Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

**Camp David:** The country retreat of the President of the United States located near Thurmont, Maryland.

**Camp David Accords:** An agreement brokered by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 between Egypt and Israel. These accords directly led to a peace treaty between the two in 1979.

**Carter Doctrine:** A 1980 policy of President Jimmy Carter that said the United States would use force to protect its interests in the Persian Gulf.

**Communique':** An official announcement or piece of news; usually something released to a media outlet.

**Cultural Imperialism:** The domination of the culture of one nation over that of another.

**Diploma Tax:** The Soviet practice of assessing a tax for the repayment of the costs of education on any of its citizens who wanted to emigrate to the West.

**Devolution:** The movement of power or control from one group to another.

**Eagle:** The first American lunar module (space craft) to land on the surface of the moon in 1969.

**"Evil Empire":** A phrase used by President Reagan to describe the Soviet Union.

**Embargo:** A government order to stop trading certain goods temporarily.

**Emigration:** The practice of leaving a country permanently to live in another.

**Endangered Species:** A population of organisms in danger of becoming extinct.

**Forbidden City:** The imperial palace of China for 500 years and located in the center of Peking (Beijing.) It was called "Forbidden" because no one could enter or leave without the Emperor's permission.

**Gasoline Rationing:** The practice of regulating gasoline sold to individuals by amount or availability during periods of scarcity.

**Gaza:** A Palestinian city located in the Gaza Strip.

**The Geneva Protocol of 1925:** An international treaty prohibiting the use of biological or chemical weapons.

**Guantanamo:** The site of a bay located on the southeastern tip of the island of Cuba. By the provisions of a 1903 treaty, the United States maintains jurisdiction over a military base, despite the objections of the Cuban government.

**The Gulf of Tonkin:** A part of the South China Sea lying off of the northeast coast of Vietnam. A 1964 incident here resulted in full-scale involvement in the Vietnam War.

**Hanoi:** The most important city in Vietnam. Hanoi became the capital of North Vietnam in 1954. After the 1976 reunification of Vietnam, Hanoi again became the capital.

**Helms-Burton Act:** A 1996 bill that strengthened the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

**Hubble Telescope:** A space telescope carried into orbit by the Space Shuttle in 1990. It is still operating today.

**HIV/AIDS:** HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It is a disease of the human immune system that first emerged in the early 1980s. In 2009, the United Nations reported that an estimated 25 million people had died from AIDS and 60 million had been infected.

**ICBM:** (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) A long-range ballistic missile designed to deliver atomic warheads more than 3,500 miles.

**Iran Hostage Crisis:** A 1979 crisis between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It began when students unaffiliated with the government seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held American diplomats hostage for 444 days. The crisis contributed to President Jimmy Carter's defeat in the election of 1980.

**Kabul:** The capital city of Afghanistan.

**Los Angeles Olympics:** The 1984 summer games boycotted by the Soviet Union and its allies.

**Mainland China:** A phrase used to refer to the People's Republic of China.

**Marxism-Leninism:** The ideology of communism that combines the original philosophy of Karl Marx with the views of Vladimir Lenin.

**Mercury Program:** The first American space flight program, 1959-1963. Its goal was to put a man into Earth orbit.

**Mir:** The Soviet space station in low Earth orbit from 1986 to 2001.

**Moscow Olympics:** The 1980 summer Olympics boycotted by the United States. In retaliation, the Soviets boycotted the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

**Most Favored Nation Status:** A level of treatment and trade advantages given by one nation to another.

**Mujahideen:** Muslim soldiers fighting in support of their political and religious beliefs.

**New Frontier:** President John F. Kennedy's ambitious program of improvement to eradicate poverty and focus Americans on space exploration.

**NASA:** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is the American agency responsible for space exploration.

**Nixon Doctrine:** A 1969 policy statement by President Richard Nixon. In it he said that the United States expected its allies to protect themselves, but that the United States would provide aid if it was requested.

**NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, founded in 1949 with 12 founding members. NATO is a system of collective defense. It was activated for the first time after terrorists struck the United States on September 11, 2001.

**"One China vs. Two Chinas":** The view that there is only one state called "China," even though there are two governments that claim to represent it.

**Organization of American States (OAS):** An international regional organization for the 35 states of the Americas. Its headquarters is in Washington, D.C.

**OPEC:** The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has 12 member states and is headquartered in Vienna. It was designed to protect



its members states by ensuring price stability. It played a controversial role during the oil crises of the 1970s.

*Pact of Bogota:* A 1948 agreement by the states of the Americas to settle disputes peacefully and to use regional dispute resolution mechanism before going to the United Nations.

*Palestinians:* An Arabic-speaking people with origins in Palestine.

*Paradigm:* A very clear example used as a model.

*Paris Peace Talks:* The protracted negotiations to end the Vietnam War.

*Pentagon Papers:* A history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam written by the Department of Defense. The documents showed deception on the part of the government and were leaked to the *New York Times* in 1971.

*PRC:* The People's Republic of China, a Communist state established by Mao Zedong in 1949.

*Population Pyramid:* A graph that shows the distribution of a human population by age groups. When the population is healthy, the graph is in the shape of a pyramid.

*Proxy:* A group or nation that acts on behalf of another nation or group of individuals.

*Quarantine:* The practice of keeping a person or animal who might have a disease separate for a period of time until their health status can be determined.

*Reichstag:* The seat of the German legislature until 1933 and again, since 1999 after the reunification of Germany.

*Rio Pact:* A 1947 defensive agreement by the countries of the Americas to regard an attack on one country as an attack on all.

*Saigon:* The capital of the independent state of South Vietnam from 1955 to 1975. Today, it is known as Ho Chi Minh City.

*Sandinistas:* Followers of a socialistic political party in Nicaragua during the 1980s. They controlled the government from 1981 to 1990.

*SALT Negotiations:* A series of Cold War-era negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States to reduce their respective nuclear arsenals.

*SALT II:* (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) An agreement reached between President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1979. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan the next year and SALT II was never ratified by the Senate.

*Shanghai Communiqué:* The official announcement released by the People's Republic of China and the United States after President Nixon's 1972 visit to China.

*Silent Majority:* President Richard Nixon used this expression to describe his supporters as a large group who did not express their opinions publicly in contrast to those protesting openly.

*Sinai Peninsula:* A triangular peninsula in Egypt that has always been the center of regional conflict.

*Solidarity Movement:* A Polish trade union movement that emerged in August 1980 from the Gdansk ship yards under the leadership of Lech Walesa. Although the communist government tried to destroy it, Solidarity continued to grow and forced semi-free elections in 1989. In 1990, Lech Walesa was elected president of Poland.

*Space Shuttle Columbia:* The first shuttle in NASA's to orbit the Earth. It completed 27 missions before burning up upon re-entry in 2003.

*Sputnik:* The first satellite to orbit the Earth. Launched by the Soviet Union in 1957, sputnik (which means "fellow traveler") caused panic in the United States and increased support for better math and science education.

*Stalemate:* A situation in which nothing can change and no action can be taken.

*Strategic Defense Initiative:* A 1983 proposal by President Reagan to protect the United States by using strategic ballistic missiles. It marked a change from a policy of "mutually assured destruction" to a defensive stance.

*Taiwan:* An island off of the coast of China, home to Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government since 1949.

*Taliban:* A militant, Islamic organization that ruled large parts of Afghanistan, including the capital city of Kabul beginning in 1996. The Taliban was overthrown in Operation Enduring Freedom and many of its supporters fled to mountainous regions or to Pakistan.

*Totalitarianism:* The belief that the government should have total power over its citizens.

*Trade Act of 1974:* A 1974 act that gave the President "fast track" authority to negotiate trade agreements that Congress can approve or reject but not amend or filibuster.

*Tyranny:* A government that exercises power without any controls or limits.

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights:* A 1948 document of the United Nations. It was the first time nations around the world agreed that people had a fundamental right to certain freedoms. Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt led the U.S. delegation.

*Velvet Revolution:* A 1989 non-violent revolution that forced the communist government out of power.

*Vietnamization:* A policy of President Richard Nixon to reduce U.S. forces fighting in Vietnam by training and replacing them with South Vietnamese troops.

*West Bank:* The territory located on the west bank of the Jordan River.